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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,131	10/30/2001	Naoto Matsunami	16869P-036100US	8042

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MIKE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,131

Applicant(s)

MATSUNAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Notices & Remarks

1. Claims 1-5 are pending for the examination.

Priority

2. Applicant is reminded that in order for a patent issuing on the instant application to obtain the benefit of priority based on priority papers filed in parent Application No. JAPAN 2001-226982 under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), a claim for such foreign priority must be made in this application. In making such claim, applicant may simply identify the application containing the priority papers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Drapeau et al.

(RAID-II: A High-Bandwidth Network File Server).

4. As to claim 1, Drapeau et al. teach a storage system comprising:

a disk controller for accepting access from a computer through a block I/O interface (see fig. 1 and page 235 col. 2 lines 3-15);

a file server for accepting access from a computer through a file I/O interface (see fig. 1 page 235 col. 2 lines 16-27);

a plurality of disk drive units, each of said plurality of disk drive units holding

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identification information identifying at least one of said disk controller and file server to which the disk drive unit is allocated (see fig. 1 and page 235 col. 1 lines 41-53 and fig. 2 and page 235 col. 2 lines 54-60 and page 236 col. 1 lines 1-3) wherein it is inherently each of the disk drives of the two outer racks holding identification identifying the XBUS controller board to which the disk drive is allocated); and

a connection unit connected between the disk controller and said file server, and said plurality of disk drive units for connecting said disk controller and said file server to said plurality of disk drive units (see fig. 2 and page 235 col. 2 lines 54-60 and page 236 col. 1 lines 1-3); and wherein

each of said disk controller and said file server determined which of said plurality of disk drive units is accessible (it is inherently the XBUS controller board determined which the disk drives is accessible).

5. As to claim 2, Drapeau et al. teach a storage system according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of disk drive units stores said identification information in a part of storage area to which data is stored (it is inherently each disk drive of the two outer racks stores the identification in a part of storage area to which data is stored).

6. As to claim 3, Drapeau et al. teach a storage system according to claim 1, wherein each of said disk controller and said file server has a memory for storing information to access a disk drive unit of said plurality of disk drive units allocated thereto (see fig. 4 and page 236 col. 2 lines 1-25 and page 237 col. 1 lines 1-17 and col. 2 lines 1-5).

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7. As to claim 4, Drapeau et al. teach a storage system according to claim 3, wherein said information stored in said memory includes address information of the disk drive unit allocated (see fig. 4 and page 236 col. 2 lines 1-25 and page 237 col. 1 lines 1-17 and col. 2 lines 1-5).

8. As to claim 5, Drapeau et al. teach a storage system according to claim 1, wherein each of said disk controller and said file server performs the determination during system initialization (see page 241 and col. 1 lines 31-62 and col. 2 lines 1-16).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,157,963 (Courtright, II et al.)

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-5040 or e-mail is mike.nguyen@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.


The appropriate fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached on (703) 308-3301.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Mike Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2182

10/21/2003


Rehana Perveen
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2182